

Montana Common Core Standards

Higher Education Community Fact Sheet

WHAT ARE THE MONTANA COMMON CORE STANDARDS?

The Common Core State Standards are a set of high-quality academic expectations in English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics that define both the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level in order to be on track for success in college and career. They were created through a state-led initiative and have been adopted by more than 40 states, including Montana. The Common Core State Standards will replace our current state standards in English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects, and mathematics.

- The standards establish **consistent** learning goals for all students – regardless of where they live – so that children will stay on track in school when moving from one state to another.
- With a **clear roadmap** of academic expectations, students, parents and teachers can work together toward shared goals.
- The standards are **relevant to the real world**, focusing on the knowledge and skills students will need to succeed in life after high school, in both post-secondary education and a globally competitive workforce.
- A diverse team of teachers, parents, administrators, researchers and content experts developed the Common Core to be **academically rigorous, attainable** for students, and **practical** for teachers and districts.
- The Montana Common Core Standards form a foundation for **literacy instruction** in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects.

MONTANA COMMON CORE SHIFTS

ELA/Literacy

1. **Building knowledge** through **content-rich nonfiction**.
2. Reading, writing and speaking grounded in **evidence from text**, both literary and informational text.
3. Regular practice with **complex text** and its **academic language**.

Mathematics

1. **Focus** strongly where the Standards focus.
2. **Coherence: Think** across grades, and **link** to major topics within grades.
3. **Rigor**: In major topics pursue **conceptual understanding**, procedural skill and **fluency**, and **application** with equal intensity.

IMPLEMENTING THE STANDARDS IN MONTANA

Several efforts are underway in Montana to bring the Common Core into our classrooms.

- Montana has joined the [SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium](#) as a Governing State.
- The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is developing a continuum for the [Stages of Implementation](#) to the [Montana Common Core Standards](#).
- Montana has created a series of webinars that focus on the overview and key content areas within English Language Arts and Literacy as well as Mathematical Practices and Progressions.
- [MCCS Overview](#)
- [ELA – Text Complexity](#)
- [ELA- Writing Highlights](#)
- [Mathematics- Highlights Practices](#)
- [Mathematics Focus and Coherence: Critical Areas and Progression Highlights](#)



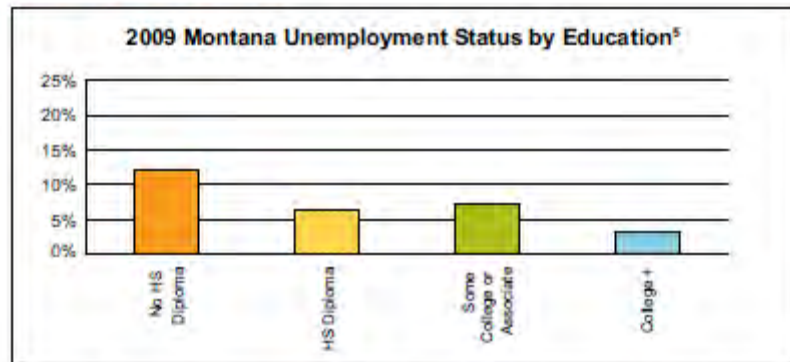
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WHAT DO THE STANDARDS MEAN FOR ME?

- The need for remediation among students entering Montana's postsecondary institutions unprepared for postsecondary work cost the state nearly \$9.8 million during the 2007–08 school year.

HIGHER LEVELS OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS EQUALS HIGHER EMPLOYMENT



Bolster economic vitality: Nearly 3,200 students did not graduate from Montana's high schools in 2010; the lost lifetime earnings in Montana for that class of dropouts total \$800 million.⁶

Alliance for Excellent Education's state card http://www.all4ed.org/publication_material/CommonStandardsStateCards

- The Common Core State Standards will ensure that students graduate from high school prepared to succeed in credit-bearing college courses without the need for remediation. Over time, this can translate into lower remediation rates and higher rates of college completion.
- While the Common Core does not impact admission criteria, assessments aligned to the standards will provide colleges and universities with the information they need to accurately place students in the appropriate courses.
- The clarity of the standards will allow teacher preparation programs to provide the best possible training for future educators.

WHAT CAN THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY DO NOW?

The standards will be fully implemented in Montana by 2015. In the meantime, members of the higher education community can help lay the groundwork for a smooth transition to the new standards, by:

- Aligning higher education curriculum with the Common Core State Standards (including revising placement policies and revising curricula of first year courses that act as bridges between K–12 and college majors)
- Representing the voice of higher education in the development of Common Core-aligned assessments.
- Preparing and educating teachers, both prospective and practicing, including revising curriculum in disciplinary departments to prepare teachers to teach the Common Core, revising professional preparation coursework and experiences, and working in partnerships with professional development programs.
- Conducting research on issues of teaching and learning the Common Core State Standards, teacher quality, and the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

THE ROAD AHEAD ...

- As a fully state-led effort, implementation of the standards is completely in the hands of states and districts. However, many states are taking advantage of the opportunity to work together, particularly by participating in at least one of two coalitions – the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) – to develop assessments that will include summative tests in addition to formative assessments. Montana is a member of the SMARTER Balanced



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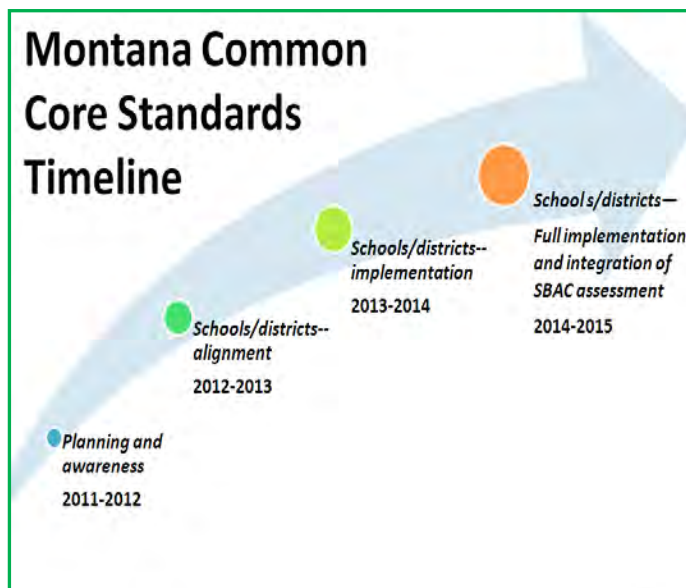
opi.mt.gov

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Assessment Consortium. New assessments will be in place in 2014-2015 and will replace existing summative assessments in ELA and math.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

- [Official Common Core State Standards Website](#)
- [Montana Common Core Standards-](#) The Office of Public Instruction
- Videos on the Common Core Standards
 - [Common Core State Standards for ELA and Literacy](#) (14 minutes)
 - [Common Core State Standards for Mathematics](#) (14 minutes)
 - [Elementary K-5](#) (14 minutes)
 - [Middle School 6-8](#) (14 minutes)
 - [High School 9-12](#) (14 minutes)
- [CCSSO's Common Core Resources](#)
- [Implementing the Common Core State Standards: An Action Agenda for Higher Education](#) (Achieve, American Council on Education, SHEEO)
- [The Common Core Standards and Teacher Preparation: The Role of Higher Education](#) (Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities)
- www.AchieveTheCore.org (Student Achievement Partners' Instructional Tools and Resources)
- [SMARTER Balanced Assessment \(SBAC\) Consortium](#)



PRINT YOUR COPIES OF THE MONTANA COMMON CORE STANDARDS

- [Montana Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects](#)
- [Montana Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice and Content](#)



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